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LR 3

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Coordsen, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. As I indicated earlier in this debate this morning, I introduced this resolution to expand the conversation on the various alternatives that were out there. I would share with both Senator Kristensen and Senator Wehrbein that they will have time available to them, hopefully, to go through the major points of their proposals. LB...the amendment, 567, is, quite frankly, LB 38 redrafted in resolution form. It provides that we would apply to ourselves the same budget growth restrictions that we did in the passage of 989 last year, imposed upon local government, which is a 2.5 percent growth rate in state operations, with a 1 percent possibility for an expansion beyond that for certain reasons. It does not limit...it does not limit the growth of state aid, whether that's Medicaid or state aid to education, or any of the other aid programs. But it does limit, in the same manner that we limit local government General Fund budget growth, the operation side of Nebraska state government. And, with that, I would turn the time over to Senator Kristensen, and if he would share with Senator Wehrbein.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Kristensen, you're recognized.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Coordsen. One of the concepts that I think we try to embrace this morning is what does this body, what direction does this body want to go. And I interpret from discussions, from members of the Appropriations Committee, that they're really asking this body what direction do we want to go, if you want to go any direction. One of the things, I introduced LB 535 in the Revenue Committee. And one of its components was what are we really measuring against, what expectations does the public have, what expectations should we have. And I come down on the side that what people really are interested in is they say, one, Legislature, we trust you; we've elected you to go use your judgment. You take the information and knowledge that you have and you do the public's business; we trust you. If we don't like your judgment, we know how to remedy it, you are gone. So what they're asking you to use is your judgment. On the other